

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/811,941

Examiner

R. Alexander Smith

Applicant(s)

SHEVELA, MICHAEL

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on September 7, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 17-28.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.132. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephonic interview with Mr. Valencia on October 15, 2007.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

- 1. An alignment tool for an adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem, comprising:
- an illumination source;
 - an illumination axis defined by said illumination source;
 - a plurality of gauge pins;
 - a plurality of distal ends of said gauge pins;
 - a plane defined by said distal ends, wherein said plane is orthogonal to said illumination axis;
 - a body to which said illumination source, and said plurality of gauge pins are attached;
- and
- a plurality of retention hooks, wherein each of said retention hooks further comprises:
 - an oblong center section;
 - an offset end that can move parallel to a long axis of said oblong center section;
 - a gripping tip; and
 - a handle. --

Claim 17 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

- 17. The alignment tool of Claim 1, wherein each of said retention hooks further comprises:
a spring applying force to draw said offset end toward said body;
a body bearing surface on said body against which said spring can bear; and
a hook bearing surface on said hook against which said spring can bear. --

Claim 18 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

- 18. The alignment tool of Claim 1, wherein each of said retention hooks further comprises a locking cam to hold said retention hook in position. --

Claim 19 has been replaced in its entirety with the following:

- 19. The alignment tool of Claim 1, wherein each of said retention hooks is able to rotate. --

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 1-14 and 17-28.

For independent claim 1 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest an alignment tool having a plurality of retention hooks, wherein each of said retention hooks comprises: an oblong center section; an offset end that can move parallel to a long axis of said

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oblong center section; a gripping tip; and a handle in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 2-14 and 17-19 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 1, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 20 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest an alignment tool for an adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem, comprising: means for making simultaneous physical contact with a plurality of coplanar reference surfaces on an adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem; means for establishing orthogonality between a plane defined by said means for making contact and the illumination axis defined by said illuminating means, wherein said orthogonality occurs at the center of emission of the adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem being aligned in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 21-24 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 20, render the dependent claims allowable.

For independent claim 25 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a method for aligning an adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem on a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- contacting a plurality of coplanar reference surfaces on the adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem, perpendicular to the axis of radiation of the adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem;

- establishing orthogonality between a plane defined by contacting the plurality of coplanar reference surfaces on the adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem and a line defined by establishing an illumination axis; and

- adjusting the orientation of the plurality of coplanar reference surfaces on the adaptive cruise control sensor subsystem until the target coincides with the illuminated spot

in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

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Claims 26-28 recite limitations which, in combination with allowed claim 25, render the dependent claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

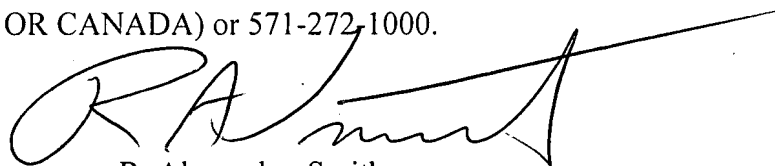
Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A. Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alexander Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Alexander Smith
Primary Examiner
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October 15, 2007